

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report of the Meetings held in June 2016

Annual Meeting – 15 June 2016

Election of Chair and Appointment of Vice-Chair

The Fire Authority has re-elected Councillor Stuart West as its Chair and appointed Councillor Eric Carter as its Vice-Chair until June 2017.

Vote of Thanks and Welcome

The Fire Authority has given a vote of thanks for Councillors Kiernan, Mason and Reynolds who left the Fire Authority in May.

The Fire Authority also welcomed new Members Councillors Barnes and Pinter and welcomed Councillor Murray back to the Authority.

Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy

In April 2005, the Fire Authority adopted an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy (since amended to include references to bribery), which is designed to:

- Encourage prevention;
- Promote detection; and
- Identify a clear pathway for investigation.

The Fire Authority has, on the recommendation of its Audit and Performance Management Committee, agreed amendments to the Strategy, following the annual review conducted by officers.

The Strategy will be brought to the attention of all employees on the Service's weekly newsletter.

Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

The Fire Authority has agreed the composition of its Committees and the allocations of seats on its committees to political groups.

Committee Membership and Constitution

The Fire Authority has confirmed appointments to its committees and appointed its Chair, Councillor Stuart West, to the Local Government Association Fire Services Commission. It has also reviewed and agreed the constitution of its committees.

Review of Member Role Descriptions

The Fire Authority has review and agreed the following Member Role Descriptions:

- Member
- Chair of the Authority
- Vice-Chair of the Authority
- Leaders of the Main Opposition Groups
- Equality and Diversity Champion
- Independent Person, including Skills and Competencies

Review of Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation to Officers

The Fire Authority has reviewed and agreed its Standing Orders for the Regulation of Proceedings and Business, Standing Orders relating to Contracts and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

Statement of Accounts 2015/16

The Fire Authority has received a report, setting out the key revenue issues, which have arisen from work on the Statement of Accounts 2015/16, and has approved how the General Fund balance will be used in 2016/17.

Corporate Risk Management Annual Report 2014/15

The Fire Authority has received an annual report on corporate risk management work during the last 12 months, produced jointly by officers and the Member Champion for Risk Management and Audit.

Following Members' feedback from the Risk Management Training that they received in March 2016, changes have been made to the reporting of Corporate Risk with the Authority's Audit and Performance Management Committee, as the scrutiny committee, now receiving the Corporate Risk Management Summary Report, which had previously been presented to the Strategy and Resources Committee. To avoid duplication of reporting, information on corporate risk will now be incorporated into appropriate financial reports to the Strategy and Resources Committee.

The frequency of corporate risk management reporting to the Fire Authority has also been increased. The Fire Authority will now receive summary reports on a six monthly basis rather than an annual basis.

Partnership Working

Partnership working is a key element in the Fire Authority's strategy to meet its vision of "Putting Shropshire's Safety First". It is also a key theme of the Fire Service National Framework. The Fire Authority and the Service are actively involved in a number of partnerships, which are risk assessed for liability and reputation and scrutinised by the Service's Risk Management Group. This Group maintains a partnership register and monitors the outcome and productivity of each of the partnerships.

Over recent years the Service has developed several new partnerships, which primarily support its prevention activities, in particular, providing a means to target some of the most vulnerable people in the community. All partnerships have been risk assessed and measurable objectives set.

The Fire Authority has received a report, giving details of the more significant partnerships, in which the Service is involved.

Extraordinary Meeting – 28 June 2016

The Fire Authority ratified the decision of its Brigade Managers' Employment Panel, following a selection process, to appoint the Deputy Chief Fire Officer Rod Hammerton as the new Chief Fire Officer. The appointment will take effect from 13 July 2016, following the retirement of Chief Fire Officer John Redmond on 12 July 2016.

The Fire Authority also delegated power to the Brigade Managers' Employment Panel to commence the recruitment process for the resulting Brigade Manager vacancy, reporting back to the Authority with its recommendations for appointment.



Stuart West
Chair
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
September 2016

Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the meetings of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 15 June 2016 and 28 June 2016.

The agendas and reports (with the exception of exempt or confidential items) for all Fire Authority meetings and those of its Committees appear on the Brigade's website:

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk>

To access reports go to the Fire Service's website and follow the steps below.

- Click on the 'Managing the Service' icon at the bottom of page
- Click on the 'Fire Authority' icon
- Click on 'Meetings' in the list on the right hand side of the screen
- Click on the appropriate meeting date and the various reports and appendices will be listed

If you have any difficulty with the website, please contact Lynn Ince, Executive Support Officer, on 01743 260225.

